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TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *vm*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY TASK FORCE
ON NUTRITION**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors to extend the Los Angeles County Task Force on Nutrition's sunset review date to March 31, 2009.

BACKGROUND

The Task Force on Nutrition (TFN or Task Force) was established by the Board of Supervisors' (Board) Order No. 105 of September 22, 1981. The most recent extension was approved by the Board in January 1999.

The TFN monitors the nutrition at County institutions, and arranges for nutrition education programs in County departments. The Task Force's duties include studying and reporting to the Board on the issues of proper nutrition as factors in reducing criminal behavior.

The TFN has twelve members appointed by the Board. Task Force members do not receive compensation. The TFN is required to meet monthly. From January 1, 2000 through March 31, 2006, the TFN met 59 times, with an average attendance of 3.5 members (29%). The TFN receives support from one staff member in the Department of Health Services (DHS) and does not have a separate budget. The TFN does not have an estimate of its annual expenses.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

JUSTIFICATION

The TFN advises County departments and institutions on how to improve their nutrition programs. The TFN also attempts to promote the importance of good nutrition. During this review period, the TFN issued a Nutrition Guidelines Report to the Board and all County departments. The report recommended a nutritional program for every department. These programs focused on the unique challenges and pressures that each department faces. Reaction to the report was mixed. For example, the Probation and Sheriff's Departments, as well as two Supervisorial offices, indicated that the guidelines were either too severe, or too costly. However, the TFN continued to work on improving the nutritional programs at the juvenile detention centers and adult prisons, in an attempt to reduce negative behavior. As a result, the quality of the food in vending machines at the juvenile detention camps has improved. For example, based on TFN's recommendation, water is now sold in vending machines, instead of only sodas.

The TFN has some areas that require improvement. Specifically, on average, less than one-third of the commissioners attend the TFN's meetings. In addition, the TFN's Nutrition Guidelines Report was not well received. The Task Force recognizes these issues, and is taking action to address them. To improve attendance, the TFN now meets at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration to make it easier for members to attend. The TFN is also working with the Board to increase the number of commission members to ensure quorums at each meeting. The Commission also plans to focus on new programs to enhance nutrition education in the County institutions, such as nutrition classes for the female inmates, and the wards of the new Twin Towers' Lynwood facility. The TFN is also developing a checklist to evaluate the quality of County facility nutrition programs. The TFN also plans to host a symposium for all County employees on diabetes, colon cancer, and obesity.

Based on the TFN's plans to improve its effectiveness, we recommend the Audit Committee propose a two-year sunset extension for the Commission. At the end of the two years, we will conduct another sunset review to determine whether the TFN has improved and should be extended for a longer period.

Please call me if you have any questions.

JTM:MMO:JLS:MR

Attachments

- c: Ivy Leeson, Chair, Task Force on Nutrition
- Eileen Crowe, Senior Secretary, Probation Department
- Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer
- Jim Corbett, Manager, Commission Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW
LOS ANGELES COUNTY TASK FORCE ON NUTRITION
REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisor's purpose and expectations?)

Stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance creating the Commission.

CONCUR

Section 1. Relevance. (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisor's purpose and expectations?)

The TFN monitors nutrition at County institutions, and arranges for nutrition education programs in County departments. The Task Force's duties include studying and reporting to the Board on issues of proper nutrition as factors in reducing criminal behavior. **RELEVANT**

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The TFN is required to meet monthly. From January 1, 2000 through March 31, 2006, the TFN met 59 times, with an average attendance of 3.5 members (29%). The Task Force recognizes its low average attendance, and is taking steps to improve attendance for the next review period. For example, the TFN now meets at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration to make it easier for members to attend. The TFN is also working with the Board to increase the number of commission members to ensure quorums at each meeting. **UNSATISFACTORY**

Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During this review period, the TFN issued a Nutrition Guidelines Report to the Board and all the departments. The report recommended a nutritional program for every department. These programs focused on the unique challenges and pressures that each department faces. Reaction to the report was mixed. For example, the Probation and Sheriff's Departments, as well as two Supervisorial offices indicated that the guidelines were either too severe or too costly. However, the TFN continued to work on improving the nutritional programs at the juvenile detention centers and adult prisons in an attempt to reduce negative behavior. As a result, the quality of the products provided in the vending

machines at the juvenile detention camps has improved. For example, water is now provided in the vending machines instead of only sodas. **SATISFACTORY**

Section 5. Objectives. (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The TFN advises the County departments and institutions on how they can improve their current nutrition programs. The TFN also attempts to promote the importance of good nutrition. For example, the TFN plans to focus on new programs to enhance nutrition education in the County institutions, such as nutrition classes for the female inmates, and the wards of the new Twin Towers' Lynwood facility. The TFN is also developing a check list that will evaluate the quality of various County facilities' nutrition programs. The list will report the quality of the facilities' food budgets, storage, schedules, consumption, waste, and meals. The TFN also plans to host a symposium for all County employees on diabetes, colon cancer, and obesity. **RELEVANT**

Section 6. Resources. (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

The Task Force receives support from one staff member from the Department of Health Services and does not have a separate budget. The TFN does not have an estimate of its annual expenses. **WARRANTED**

Section 7. Recommendation.

EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY TASK FORCE ON NUTRITION TO MARCH 31, 2009.

Attachment II

LOS ANGELES COUNTY TASK FORCE ON NUTRITION ATTENDANCE RECORD

| Commissioner | Nominated by | 9/31/00 | 6/30/00 | 9/30/00 | 12/31/00 | 3/31/01 | 6/30/01 | 9/30/01 | (a) | 12/31/01 | 3/31/02 | 6/30/02 | 9/30/02 | 12/31/02 | 3/31/03 | 6/30/03 | 9/30/03 | 12/31/03 | 3/31/04 | 6/30/04 | 9/30/04 | 12/31/04 | 3/31/05 | 6/30/05 | 9/30/05 | 12/31/05 | 3/31/06 | Totals | % Attended | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|-----|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|--------|------------|-----|
| | | Number of Meetings per Quarter | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 59 | | |
| Patricia G. Williams | 2nd District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 14 | 38% | |
| Ruth Lyons-Friedman | 3rd District | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 0 | 21 | 60% | |
| Ivy Lesson | 4th District | | | | | | 0 | | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | 2 | 28 | 61% | |
| Wade Andrews | 4th District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | 7 | 78% | |
| Richard P. Huemer, M.D. | 5th District | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 17 | 59% | |
| Theodora Pariani | 5th District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 22 | 55% | |
| Eleanor Duffy | 5th District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 18% | |
| Barbara L. Boone | 5th District | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | | | 1 | 56 | 95% | |
| Milton Wolpin, Ph.D. | 5th District | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 | 60% |
| Derek S.W. Ma | 5th District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 20% |
| Shirley Atrov-Belling | 5th District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 | 30% |
| Ray Hernandez | 5th District | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 21 | 66% | |
| Matthew P. Lynch | 5th District | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 | 18% |
| Eve L. Wang | 5th District | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Sandra Valentine | 5th District | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | 5 | 31% |
| Totals | | 9 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 9 | | | 10 | 14 | 13 | 10 | 11 | 0 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 7 | 0 | 9 | 5 | 205 | | |
| Average Attendance Per Meeting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3.5 | | | |

Footnote Legend:
(a) Attendance records for this quarter could not be provided for review.